MONTHLY NOTICES

OF THE

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

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W. H. M. CHRISTIE, M.A., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The following candidates were proposed as Fellows of the Society, the name of the proposer from personal knowledge being appended:—

John Harvey Jones, Fairview Villa, Coburg Road, Montpelier, Bristol (proposed by W. F. Denning);

William Henry Maw, Civil Engineer, 18 Addison Road, Kensington, W. (proposed by Sir H. Grubb); and

Albert Taylor, Observatory, Hurstside, West Molesey, Surrey (proposed by J. Norman Lockyer).

Photographic Committee.

At a meeting of the above Committee, appointed by the Council of the Royal Astronomical Society, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That this Committee is of opinion that it is undesirable to reopen any fundamental questions settled by the Astrophotographic Congress, and therefore considers that it is not desirable to extend the limits of magnitude for the stars of the photographic chart of the heavens beyond that already defined by that Congress.

2. That this Committee expresses its strong disapproval of the scheme for an International Bureau for measuring the stellar photographs, as proposed in the *Bulletin du Comité International Permanent*.

The Library.

In accordance with a resolution of the Council, the Library of the Society will in future be closed on the FIRST and THIRD Saturdays in each month at 2 P.M.

The Central Office for Astronomical Telegrams.
By Professor A. Krueger.

(*Extract from a letter to the President.*)

I have been often surprised that the Central Office for Astronomical Telegrams has only one subscriber in England, while in France we have 5, in Spain and Portugal 3, in Italy 5, in Germany 12, in Austria 4, in Switzerland 3, in Russia 12, in Scandinavia 4, and in Holland and Belgium 4.

Perhaps you would bring the matter before a meeting of the R.A.S. The yearly contribution for those who do not desire telegrams of discoveries of minor planets is at present 2*l*., or including minor planets, 3*l*.

As the number of subscribers increases, the yearly subscription will be reduced, by reason of the necessary expenses of management being divided among a greater number.

New Arrangement of Electrical Control for Driving Clocks of Equatorials. By Sir Howard Grubb, F.R.S.

In a paper read before this Society last spring I mentioned that it appeared to me likely that the best system for obtaining accurate clock-driving, and that most suitable for photographic work, would be found to be a combination of Dr. Gill's as applied to Lord Crawford's 15-inch equatorial, and mine as applied to Mr. Roberts's equatorial.

I have since worked this out, and the driving apparatus I exhibit to-night (which is intended for the stellar photographic instrument of the Mexican, Chapultepec, Observatory) is the result.

There is nothing novel to remark on in the clock itself except the governor.

In Dr. Gill's control, as applied to the Earl of Crawford's telescope, and in my earliest form, the correction was applied to the governor by an increase or decrease of friction, and it was therefore desirable to keep down the *vis inertiæ* of the governor, but as, in this form, the correction is applied in a totally different manner, it is permissible to employ a very heavy, quick-moving governor, with a corresponding increase of *vis inertiæ*, and this has, as can easily be understood, great advantages in many ways, more particularly in the obtaining of great smoothness of motion.

In this particular governor, instead of balls I use a brass ring loaded with lead, and cut into eight segments; and in addition to gravity, springs are applied, one to each segment, tending to supplement the force of gravity; by which arrangement the speed of the governor is increased from 90 to 135 revolutions,